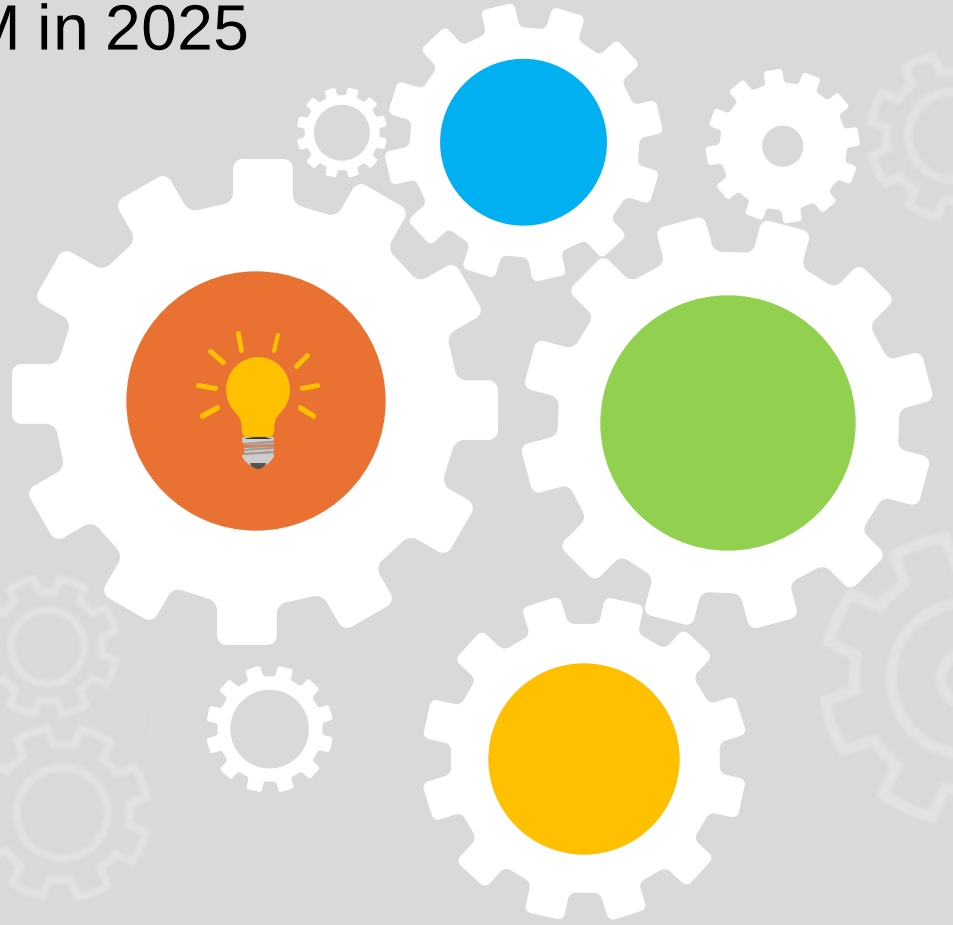
Touch UI & Wide Page Templates

What to expect in AEM in 2025



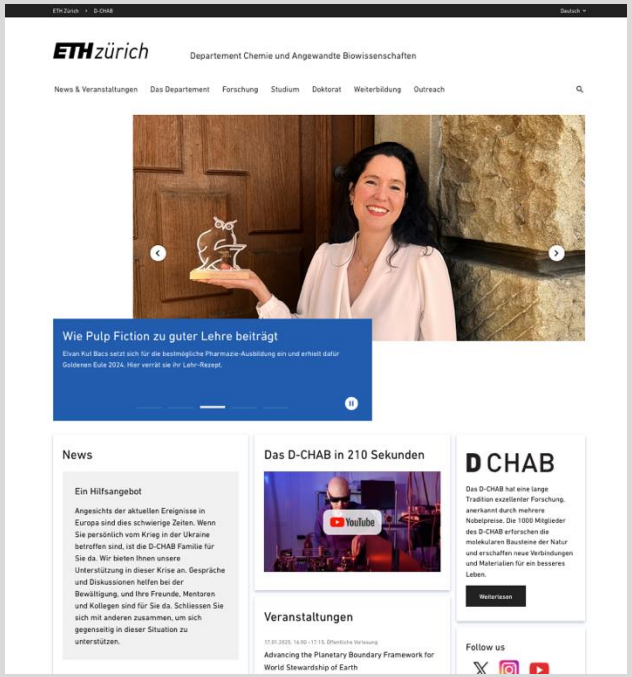
Presentation goals

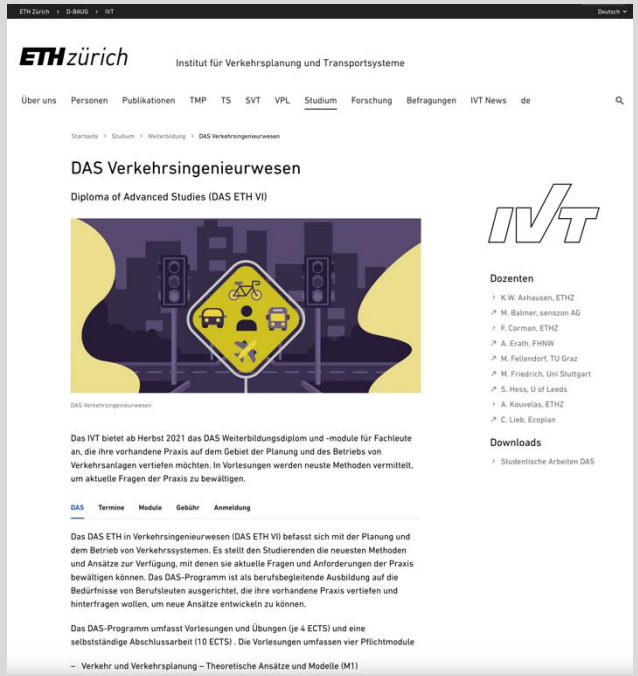
- Explain the rationale for the template switches
- Clarify what the change to the new system UI means
- Clarify what authors need to do and when
- Share ‘getting started’ tips for using the new Touch UI
- Address any open questions by authors

Why legacy content and homepages are deprecated?

The legacy 3-column design:

- had an outdated design
- was no longer best practice
- was not accessible
- resulted inconsistent content structure
- resulted in the misuse of components and particularly on homepages, lead to cluttered text content leading to further usability and accessibility issues.

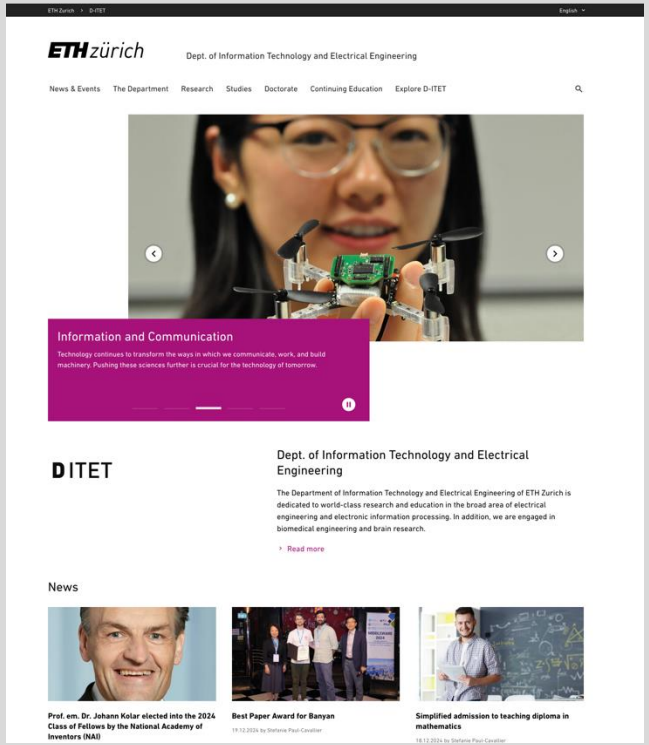


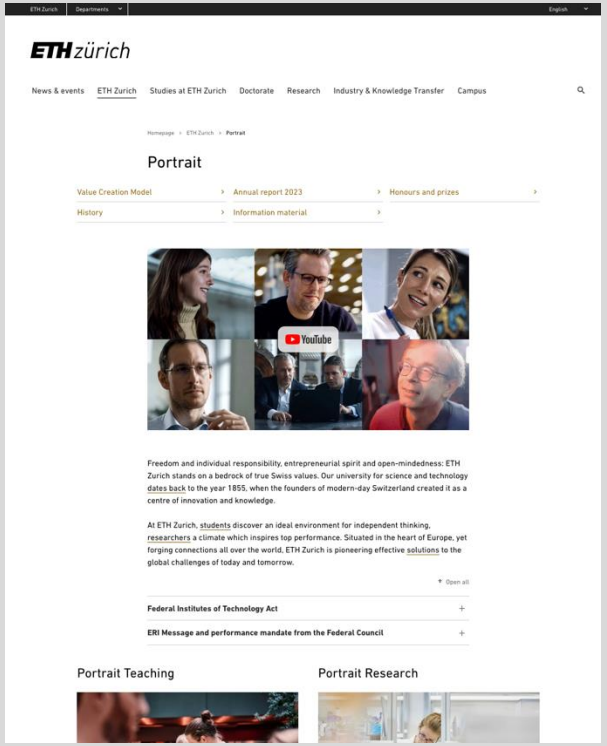


Benefits of the wide content and the wide homepage?

The wide page templates:

- are more aligned to modern web practice
- are more accessible
- maintain the same content structure across all devices
- allow for some additional functionality for some of the existing components
- have new components that more effectively use the space available





Why template changes and move to Touch UI are coinciding?

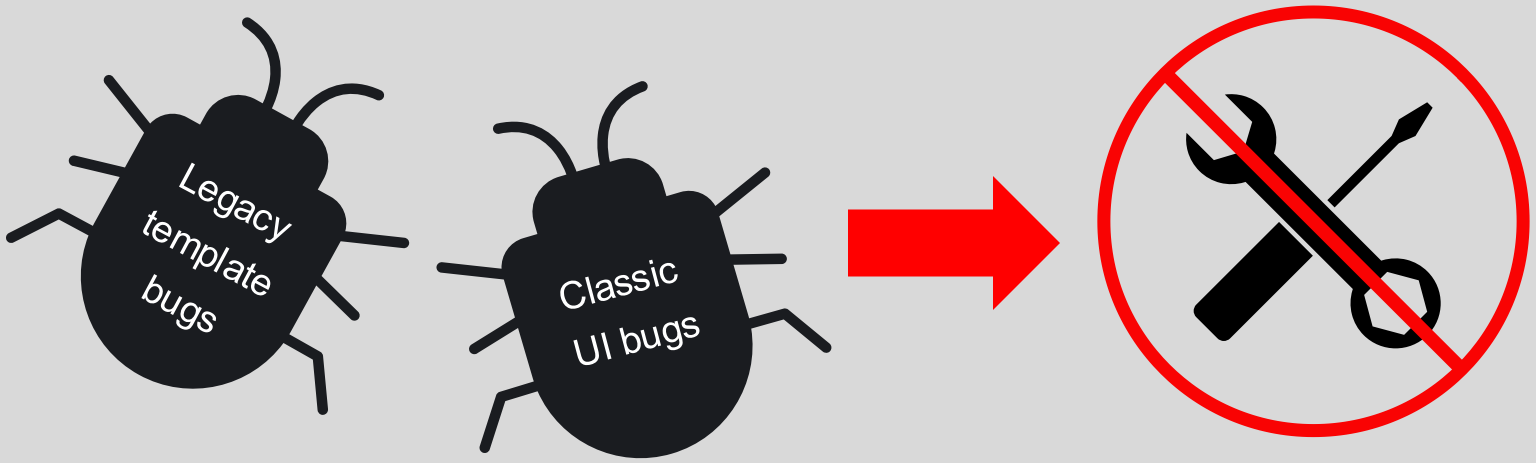
Adobe’s discontinued development of the Classic UI is resulting in an increased number of compatibility issues encountered with each system software update.

Continued maintenance of a deprecated UI is inefficient and a waste of resources.

The newer components and templates in our system are now only developed for Touch UI.

What this means…

To keep the system clean and easier to manage, deprecated components and templates need to be removed from use and eventually the system.



Backend development/maintenance in AEM will only be for the Touch user interface. This applies to management window functionality, the new templates and all components in the system that were migrated or developed for the wide page templates.

What authors now need to do…

Legacy content pages

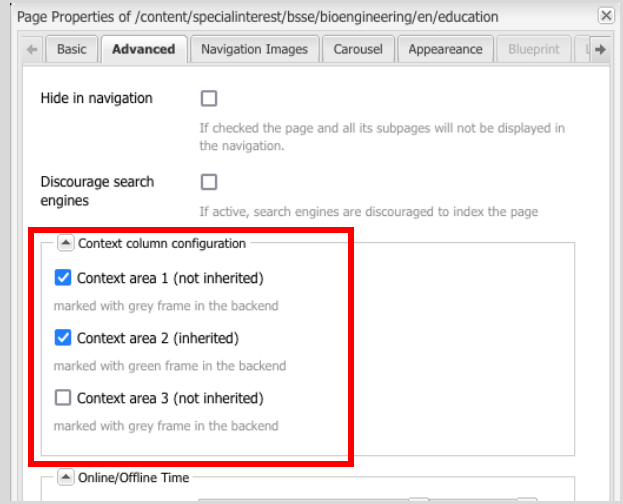
In April, **legacy content pages will become read only**. In order to update the content of a legacy page, the page will need to be switched to the wide page layout.

- Main content area content will remain on the page.
- Components in the right column should be moved to the content area or deleted and all context containers deleted.
- Switch the page via the ‘Use wide page layout’ button in the Advanced tab of the page properties.
- Reactivate the page!

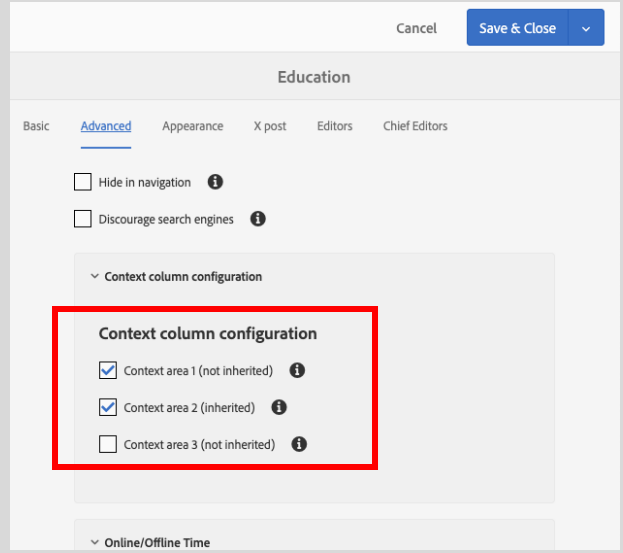
Wide page switch tips

- If you seldom used the right column, the page switch can be done quickly from the Sites manager.
- If you receive an error message, open page properties and turn on all context areas and check page to see if there are components or context containers that were hidden and remove them.
- Inherited content is not considered when switching a page.
- Smaller data tables may need a configuration adjustment to text width.
- The content navigation may need configuration to text width depending on the number of subpages (e.g. 1-4).

Classic UI



Touch UI

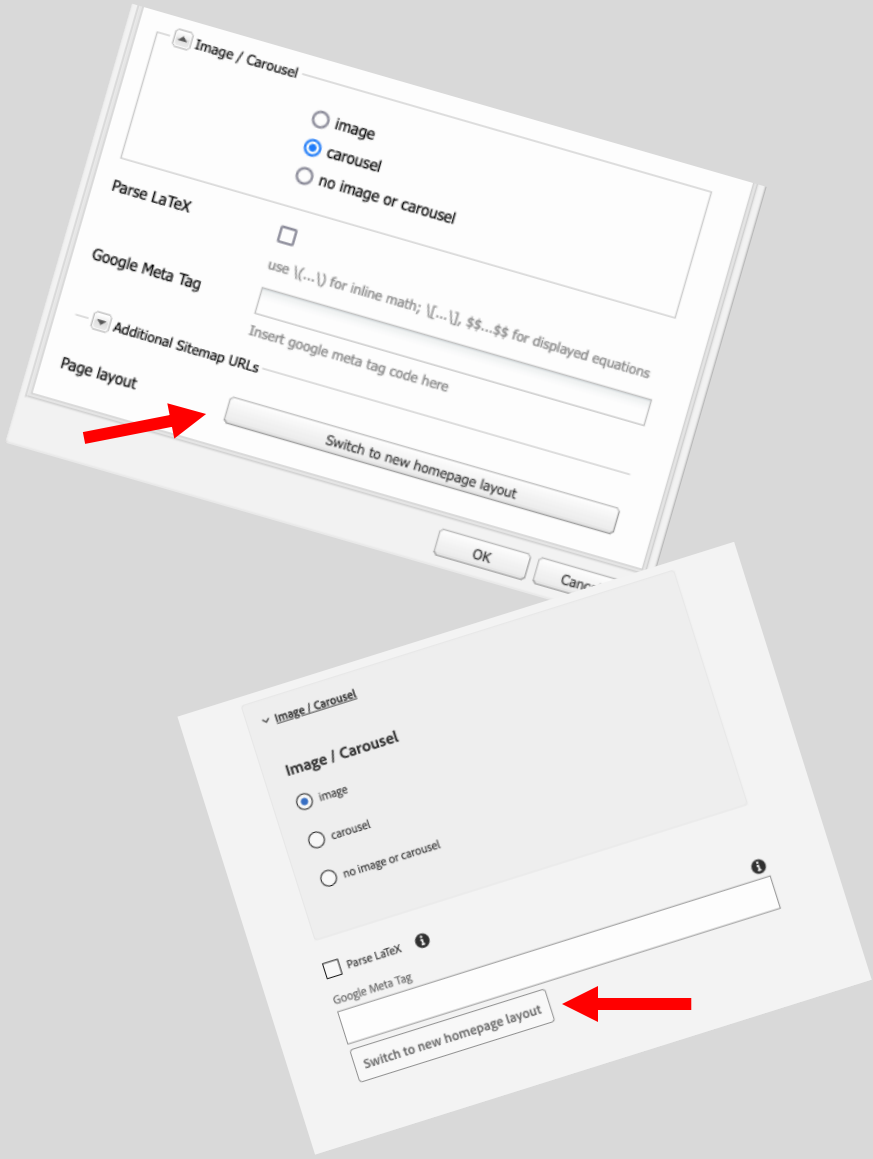


What authors will need to do…

Legacy homepages

In September, all legacy homepages will be rendered read only and should be switched to the new wide homepage beforehand.

- **Important! All existing page content/components will be removed from the page**.
- **Activate the existing page first before switching** to save a version – just in case!
- When ready to make the switch, the button to switch is in the page properties Advanced tab.
- Build your content with the new homepage components.
- Reactivate the page!

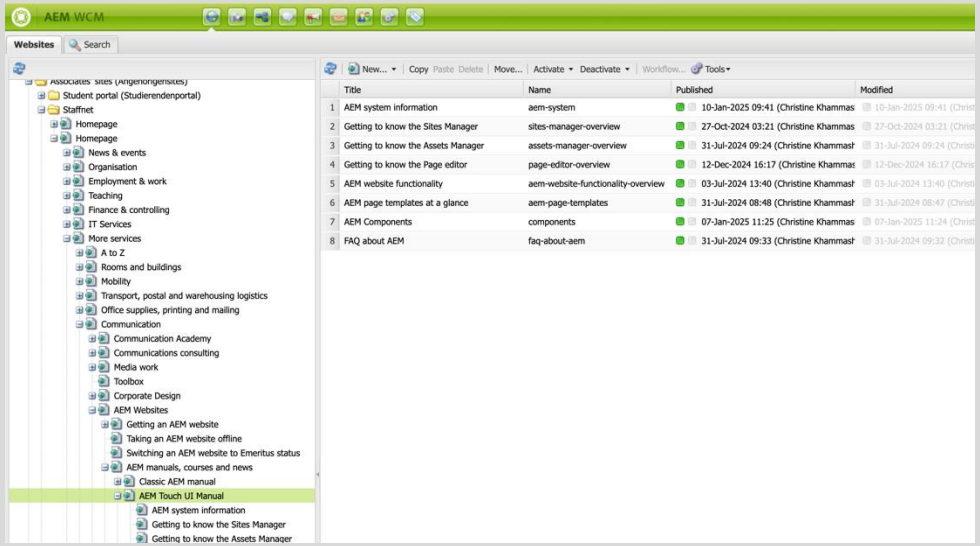


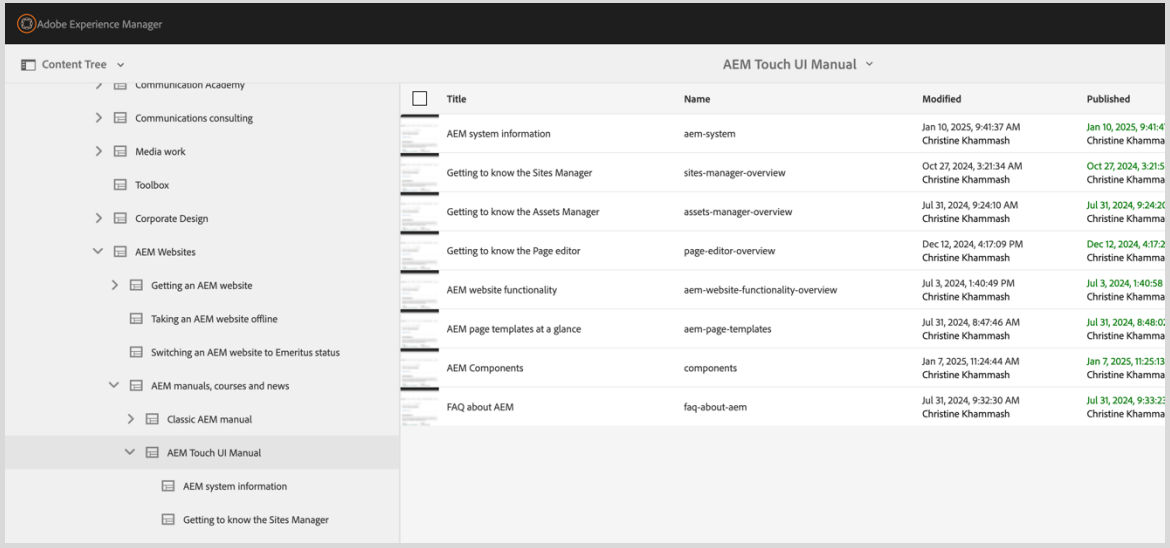
Homepage switch tips

- Use the training system copy of your website to make a test page.
- Some configuration fields can be copy/pasted from one browser window to the other if you have the live homepage and training system test homepage open side by side (carousel links, newsfeed configurations, event feed url, publications configurations, etc).
- Components on the new homepage represent one section of information. Most are self-contained, but general information and links to subpages should be grouped by topic now using the Multi-topic teaser component.
- There is a still an optional built-in organizational information component on the homepage with optional logo image. The appearance/location of its info will be different depending on the hero option chosen and if the logo option is used or not.
- There are two newsfeed components available: the Newsfeed 2.0 requires configured news images and the Newsfeed (no images) displays no images at all.
- Previous overall website configurations in the properties of homepages, such as colour theme, social media icons, etc. should remain intact with the page switch.

What is meant by Touch UI?

- The backend application, the system structure and website content remains the same and unchanged.
- The backend management windows have a more modern application design in the Touch UI.
- Classic UI functionality is retained in the Touch UI, but may have some enhancements and/or may be located differently.
- Overlay functionality is often used in management windows and dialogues.
- There may be more clicks for some functionality. This is out of our control and due to the new interface.



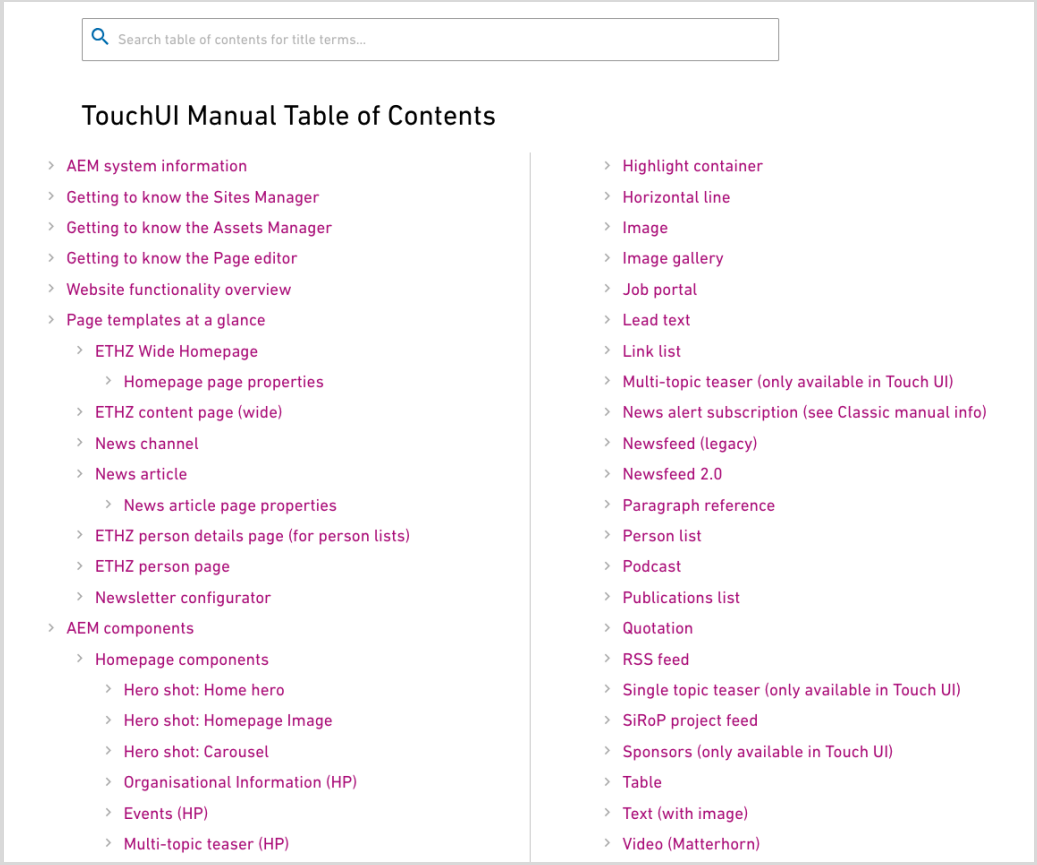


Touch UI information

In general, the best source of information is the new Touch UI manual.

- The main page of the manual has a dedicated search bar for the manual with a table of contents.
- Dedicated page for each management window
- Dedicated page for each template type
- Overall component page explaining standard component functionality
- Dedicated page for each component
- Additional information pages for authors in the FAQ section (Writing for the web, Webpage accessibility, Colour accessibility, etc)

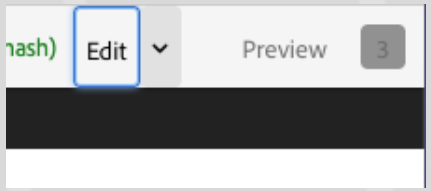
AEM basic courses are now also only given in Touch UI for new authors or those wanting a refresher.



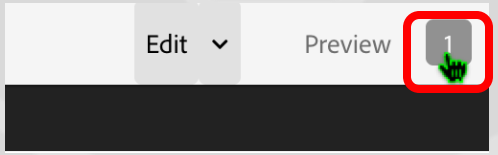
Tips for Touch UI

- **Help button** in all components

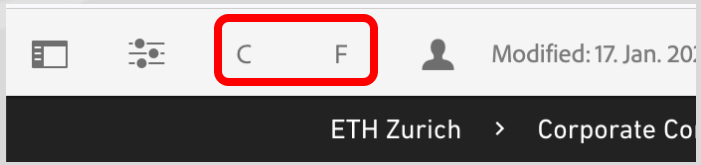
- More automatic page refreshes occur when editing pages.
- Occasional manual page refreshes may be needed.
- **Edit mode** is required to edit a page in the page editor.



- **Preview mode** is required to click on navigation items or relative links to other pages in AEM.
- To check an **external link**, use Preview mode and **Ctrl+click** the link.
- **Annotations** are now in an overlay.



- **C/T button** in top left of page editor is used to switch between Classic UI and Touch UI. Use **F** button to report an issue.



Additional support for AEM authors

Technical support:

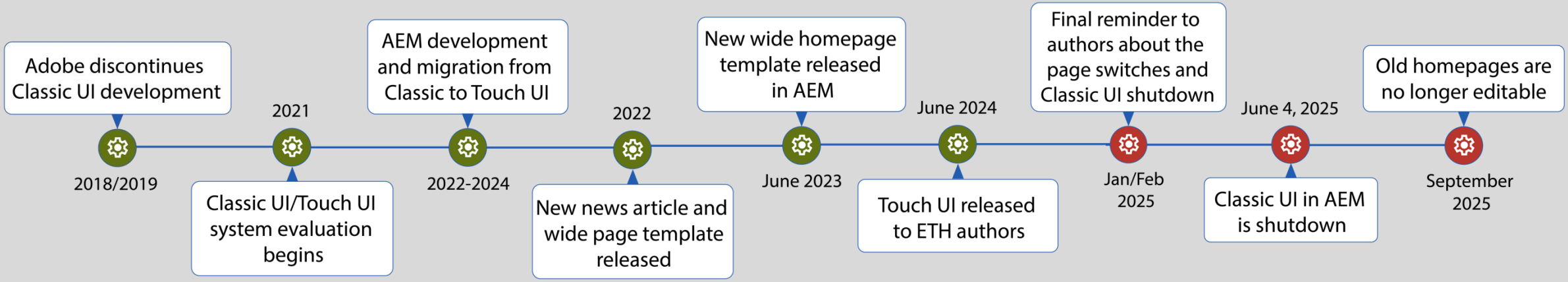
- AEM basic courses (EN, DE)
- Online Q&A sessions via Zoom
- Service Desk inquiries

NOTE: The main AEM manual page has the links to system release information, the known issues page, courses and shows the calendar dates and links for the online Q&A sessions.

Consulting:

- Quality checks (for layout, website structure and accessibility reviews of new and existing websites)
- Service Desk or online Q&A inquiries

Timeline for template and Touch UI switch



Thank you!